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FEDERAL USURPATION. By Franklin Pierce, of the New York Bar. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1908. Pp. xx, 437.

Mr. Pierce has written a vigorous, readable volume embodying the views of those opposed to the alleged centralization of power in the national government. He does not profess to have written a law book, but in his preface says: "This book is a plea for the sacredness of the Constitution of the United States." His thesis is that the Constitution is virtually being amended by the usurpation of power by the President, by manipulation through the judicial interpretations of the Supreme Court and by the undemocratic system of government by committees in vogue in Congress.

In the chapter on "Executive Usurpation," Mr. Pierce cites numerous executive statements and acts to show the growth of the power of the President, concluding the chapter with a strong arraignment of President Roosevelt. The chapter on "Congressional Usurpation" and the "United States Supreme Court" are replete with facts and citations which apparently substantiate Mr. Pierce's charge, that the States are being deprived of their constitutional rights by this insidious system of usurpation rather than by the method of amending the Constitution provided by that instrument itself. The author quite despairs of present conditions, and in the last chapter of his book, entitled, "How to Restore the Democratic Republic," suggests a convention for the amendment of the National Constitution. He says, "This Constitution is the most undemocratic instrument to be found in any country in the world to-day." His book, although somewhat radical, is forcibly suggestive and well written.

R. W. B.

NEGLIGENCE IN LAW. By Thomas Beven, of the Inner Temple. Third edition, two volumes. London: Stevens and Haynes. Toronto: Canadian Law Book Co. Philadelphia: Cromarty Law Book Co. 1908. Pp. cciv, 1-726, 727-1505.

This edition of Mr. Beven's work is not as valuable for the American practitioner as the previous edition, owing to the fact, which he fully explains in the preface, that an attempt to present the law of the United States side by side with that of England is impossible of success and inexpedient. The